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Letter dated 25 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement issued on 8 September 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union concerning recent developments in Somalia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Jean-David **Levitte**
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 25 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union on recent developments in Somalia

The European Union hopes that the election of Mr. Abdulkassim Salata Hassan as President of Somalia by the National Transitional Assembly meeting in Arta will contribute to the restoration of the State, to the preservation of national unity and to the territorial integrity of the country, as longed for by the Somali people and desired by the international community. The Union wishes the elected President every success.

The European Union is willing to enter into dialogue with the new Somali authorities and, once they have established their authority, to support their efforts to rebuild the country, while continuing to give its backing to recovery measures in all areas of Somalia where stable conditions exist.

The European Union calls on the authorities of Somaliland and Puntland to establish constructive relations with the institutions which have emerged from the Arta process. It also urges the future transitional government to establish a constructive dialogue as soon as possible with the aforementioned authorities for the purpose of re-establishing national unity in peace and with respect for the elements of stability achieved.

It invites the heads of the armed movements which remain on the margins of the peace process to associate themselves with that process.

The European Union hopes that the new Somali authorities will establish close relations of friendship and cooperation with all the countries in the region.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with the present statement.